

Church Fabric & Development Fund - Update on Changes

Background

Since 1930, the Church Fabric Fund has been held for the repair of certain church buildings. It is governed by Chapter X Part IV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* and managed by the Representative Church Body (RCB).

2016 Constitutional Amendments

In May 2016, the General Synod approved amendments to the *Constitution*, renaming the fund as the 'Church Fabric and Development Fund', amending section 20 to extend the scope of the fund to include the development of initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church, and specifying that income of the fund post-1st July 2016 may be applied to this broader purpose.

The rules to regulate the amendments have been approved by the Standing Committee to the General Synod and are now in force.

Overview of the changes

The idea behind the changes is to allow the fund to be used more widely than before, in order to more effectively serve the wider life, outreach and witness of the Church into the long term.

The amendments will:

- ✚ Allow central funds to be used for:
 - the existing purpose of giving fabric grants for the restoration or repair of certain church buildings (the '*Fabric application*'); and
 - the development of the best examples of mission initiatives, and enable scaling of these initiatives across the whole island of Ireland, for the strategic benefit of the wider Church (the '*Central Development application*'); and
- ✚ Provide parishes which have investments under the Church Fabric provisions with access to their investments, allowing these funds to be used for the purposes of approved mission (the '*Local Development application*').

What do the changes mean for parishes?

The Fabric application remains as it is and will continue to work in same way as before.

The Central Development and Local Development applications are now available to parishes. Their aim is to facilitate the strategic growth of the Church of Ireland, with the aim of encouraging existing excellence and offering opportunities for future creative initiatives.

How does the Church Fabric & Development Fund fit in with other funding for parishes?

The RCB will work together with other grant-awarding bodies within the Church of Ireland to ensure that the variety of grants awarded for different and similar purposes complement each other.

More information

More detailed information, including the application forms and guidelines to help with completing the forms, can be found under the 'Funding & Grants' and 'Property Grants' sections of www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources.

If you have any queries about the changes or about making an application, please email:

- Fabric application: ian.walsh@rcbdub.org
- Central or Local Development application: funding@rcbdub.org